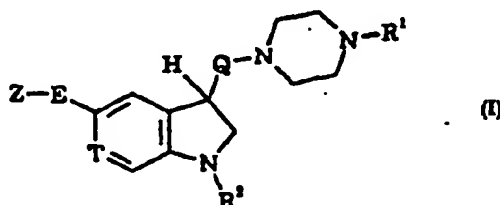


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(54) Title: INDOLINE AND AZAINDOLINE DERIVATIVES AS 5-HT_{1D} ALPHA RECEPTOR AGONISTS

(57) Abstract

Compounds of formula (I), or a salt or prodrug thereof, wherein Z represents an optionally substituted five-membered heteroaromatic ring selected from furan, thiophene, pyrrole, oxazole, thiazole, isoxazole, isothiazole, imidazole, pyrazole, oxadiazole, thiadiazole, triazole and tetrazole; E represents a chemical bond or a straight or branched alkylene chain containing from 1 to 4 carbon atoms; Q represents a straight or branched alkylene chain containing from 1 to 6 carbon atoms; T represents nitrogen or CH; R¹ represents aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl or heteroaryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, either of which groups may be optionally substituted; and R² represents hydrogen or C₁₋₆ alkyl are selective agonists of 5-HT₁-like receptors, being potent agonists of the human 5-HT_{1D} receptor subtype whilst possessing at least a 10-fold selective affinity for the 5-HT_{1D} receptor subtype relative to the 5-HT_{1D} subtype; they are therefore useful in the treatment and/or prevention of clinical conditions, in particular migraine and associated disorders, for which a subtype-selective agonist of 5-HT_{1D} receptors is indicated, whilst eliciting fewer side-effects, notably adverse cardiovascular events, than those associated with non-subtype-selective 5HT_{1D} receptor agonists.

that the cardiovascular side-effects observed with sumatriptan can be attributed to stimulation of the 5-HT_{1D} receptor subtype. It is accordingly considered (cf. G.W. Rebeck *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 1994, 91, 3666-9) that compounds which can interact selectively with the 5-HT_{1D α} receptor subtype, whilst having a less pronounced action at the 5-HT_{1D β} subtype, might be free from, or at any rate less prone to, the undesirable cardiovascular and other side-effects associated with non-subtype-selective 5-HT_{1D} receptor agonists, whilst at the same time maintaining a beneficial level of anti-migraine activity.

10 The compounds of the present invention, being selective 5-HT₁-like receptor agonists, are accordingly of benefit in the treatment of migraine and associated conditions, e.g. cluster headache, chronic paroxysmal hemicrania, headache associated with vascular disorders, tension headache and paediatric migraine. In particular, the compounds
15 according to this invention are potent agonists of the human 5-HT_{1D α} receptor subtype. Moreover, the compounds in accordance with this invention have been found to possess at least a 10-fold selective affinity for the 5-HT_{1D α} receptor subtype relative to the 5-HT_{1D β} subtype, and they can therefore be expected to manifest fewer side-effects than those
20 associated with non-subtype-selective 5-HT_{1D} receptor agonists.

 Several distinct classes of substituted five-membered heteroaromatic compounds are described in published European patent applications 0438230, 0497512 and 0494774, and published International patent applications 93/18029, 94/02477 and 94/03446. The compounds
25 described therein are stated to be agonists of 5-HT₁-like receptors, and accordingly to be of particular use in the treatment of migraine and associated conditions. None of these publications, however, discloses nor even suggests the indoline and azaindoline derivatives provided by the present invention.

30 In EP-A-0548813 is described a series of alkoxypyridin-4-yl and alkoxypyrimidin-4-yl derivatives of indol-3-ylalkylpiperazines which are

INDOLINE AND AZAINDOLINE DERIVATIVES AS 5-HT_{1D} ALPHA RECEPTOR AGONISTS

The present invention relates to a class of substituted indoline and azaindoline derivatives which act on 5-hydroxytryptamine (5-HT) receptors, being selective agonists of so-called "5-HT₁-like" receptors. They are therefore useful in the treatment of clinical conditions for which a selective agonist of these receptors is indicated.

It has been known for some time that 5-HT₁-like receptor agonists which exhibit selective vasoconstrictor activity are of use in the treatment of migraine (see, for example, A. Doenicke *et al.*, *The Lancet*, 1988, Vol. 1, 1309-11).

The human 5-HT₁-like or 5-HT_{1D} receptor has recently been shown by molecular cloning techniques to exist in two distinct subtypes. These subtypes have been termed 5-HT_{1D α} (or 5-HT_{1D-1}) and 5-HT_{1D β} (or 5-HT_{1D-2}), and their amino acid sequences are disclosed and claimed in WO-A-91/17174.

The 5-HT_{1D α} receptor subtype in humans is believed to reside on sensory terminals in the dura mater. Stimulation of the 5-HT_{1D α} subtype inhibits the release of inflammatory neuropeptides which are thought to contribute to the headache pain of migraine. The human 5-HT_{1D β} receptor subtype, meanwhile, is located predominantly on the blood vessels and in the brain, and hence may play a part in mediating constriction of cerebral and coronary arteries, as well as CNS effects.

Administration of the prototypical 5-HT_{1D} agonist sumatriptan (GR43175) to humans is known to give rise at therapeutic doses to certain adverse cardiovascular events (see, for example, F. Willett *et al.*, *Br. Med. J.*, 1992, 304, 1415; J.P. Ottervanger *et al.*, *The Lancet*, 1993, 341, 861-2; and D.N. Bateman, *The Lancet*, 1993, 341, 221-4). Since sumatriptan barely discriminates between the human 5-HT_{1D α} and 5-HT_{1D β} receptor subtypes (cf. WO-A-91/17174, Table 1), and since it is the blood vessels with which the 5-HT_{1D β} subtype is most closely associated, it is believed

that the cardiovascular side-effects observed with sumatriptan can be attributed to stimulation of the 5-HT_{1D β} receptor subtype. It is accordingly considered (cf. G.W. Rebeck *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 1994, 91, 3666-9) that compounds which can interact selectively with the 5-HT_{1D α} receptor subtype, whilst having a less pronounced action at the 5-HT_{1D β} subtype, might be free from, or at any rate less prone to, the undesirable cardiovascular and other side-effects associated with non-subtype-selective 5-HT_{1D} receptor agonists, whilst at the same time maintaining a beneficial level of anti-migraine activity.

10 The compounds of the present invention, being selective 5-HT₁-like receptor agonists, are accordingly of benefit in the treatment of migraine and associated conditions, e.g. cluster headache, chronic paroxysmal hemicrania, headache associated with vascular disorders, tension headache and paediatric migraine. In particular, the compounds
15 according to this invention are potent agonists of the human 5-HT_{1D α} receptor subtype. Moreover, the compounds in accordance with this invention have been found to possess at least a 10-fold selective affinity for the 5-HT_{1D α} receptor subtype relative to the 5-HT_{1D β} subtype, and they can therefore be expected to manifest fewer side-effects than those
20 associated with non-subtype-selective 5-HT_{1D} receptor agonists.

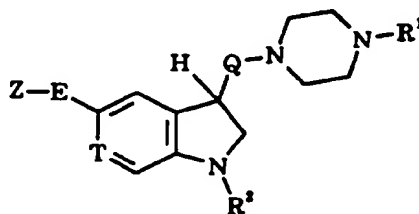
 Several distinct classes of substituted five-membered heteroaromatic compounds are described in published European patent applications 0438230, 0497512 and 0494774, and published International patent applications 93/18029, 94/02477 and 94/03446. The compounds
25 described therein are stated to be agonists of 5-HT₁-like receptors, and accordingly to be of particular use in the treatment of migraine and associated conditions. None of these publications, however, discloses nor even suggests the indoline and azaindoline derivatives provided by the present invention.

30 In EP-A-0548813 is described a series of alkoxypyridin-4-yl and alkoxypyrimidin-4-yl derivatives of indol-3-ylalkylpiperazines which are

alleged to provide treatment of vascular or vascular-related headaches, including migraine. There is, however, no disclosure nor any suggestion in EP-A-0548813 of replacing the alkoxypyridine or alkoxypyrimidine substituent with an optionally substituted aryl-alkyl or heteroaryl-alkyl substituent; nor of replacing the indole moiety with an indoline or azaindoline moiety; nor indeed is there any suggestion therein that the range of substituents specified at the 5-position of the indole moiety might be successfully replaced by an optionally substituted five-membered heteroaromatic ring.

Moreover, nowhere in the prior art available to date is there any disclosure of a subtype-selective 5-HT_{1D} receptor agonist having a 5-HT_{1D α} receptor binding affinity (IC₅₀) of 50 nM or less and at least a 10-fold selective affinity for the 5-HT_{1D α} receptor subtype relative to the 5-HT_{1D β} subtype.

The present invention provides a compound of formula I, or a salt or prodrug thereof:



(I)

wherein

Z represents an optionally substituted five-membered heteroaromatic ring selected from furan, thiophene, pyrrole, oxazole, thiazole, isoxazole, isothiazole, imidazole, pyrazole, oxadiazole, thiadiazole, triazole and tetrazole;

E represents a chemical bond or a straight or branched alkylene chain containing from 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

Q represents a straight or branched alkylene chain containing from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

T represents nitrogen or CH;

R¹ represents aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl or heteroaryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, either of which
5 groups may be optionally substituted; and

R² represents hydrogen or C₁₋₆ alkyl.

The present invention also provides compounds of formula I above wherein T represents CH; and Z, E, Q, R¹ and R² are as defined above.

The five-membered heteroaromatic ring Z in the compounds of
10 formula I above may be optionally substituted by one or, where possible, two substituents. As will be appreciated, where Z represents an oxadiazole, thiadiazole or tetrazole ring, only one substituent will be possible; otherwise, one or two optional substituents may be accommodated around the five-membered heteroaromatic ring Z.

15 Examples of suitable substituents on the five-membered heteroaromatic ring Z include C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, aryl, aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, amino, C₁₋₆ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, halogen, cyano or trifluoromethyl.

20 The aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl or heteroaryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl group R¹ may be optionally substituted, preferably on the aryl or heteroaryl moiety thereof, by one or more substituents. Examples of optional substituents on the group R¹ include halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonyl,
25 arylsulphonyl, amino, C₁₋₆ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonylamino, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonylamino, arylsulphonylamino, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonyl-aminomethyl, aminocarbonylamino, C₁₋₆ alkylaminocarbonylamino, di(C₁₋₆)alkylaminocarbonylamino, mono- or diarylaminocarbonylamino,
30 pyrrolidinylcarbonylamino, piperidinylcarbonylamino, aminocarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylaminocarbonyl, di(C₁₋₆)alkylaminocarbonyl, aminosulphonyl, C₁₋₆

alkylaminosulphonyl, di(C₁₋₆)alkylaminosulphonyl, aminosulphonylmethyl, C₁₋₆ alkylaminosulphonylmethyl and di(C₁₋₆)alkylaminosulphonylmethyl.

5 As used herein, the expression "C₁₋₆ alkyl" includes methyl and ethyl groups, and straight-chained or branched propyl, butyl, pentyl and hexyl groups. Particular alkyl groups are methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl and t-butyl. Derived expressions such as "C₁₋₆ alkoxy", "C₁₋₆ alkylthio" and "C₁₋₆ alkylamino" are to be construed accordingly.

10 The expression "C₂₋₆ alkenyl" as used herein refers to straight-chained and branched alkenyl groups containing from 2 to 6 carbon atoms. Typical examples include vinyl, allyl, dimethylallyl and butenyl groups.

The expression "C₂₋₆ alkynyl" as used herein refers to straight-chained and branched alkynyl groups containing from 2 to 6 carbon atoms. Typical examples include ethynyl and propargyl groups.

15 Typical C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl groups include cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl and cyclohexyl.

Typical aryl groups include phenyl and naphthyl.

20 The expression "aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl" as used herein includes benzyl, phenylethyl, phenylpropyl and naphthylmethyl.

Suitable heterocycloalkyl groups include azetidyl, pyrrolidyl, piperidyl, piperazinyl and morpholinyl groups.

25 Suitable heteroaryl groups include pyridyl, quinolyl, isoquinolyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyranyl, furyl, benzofuryl, dibenzofuryl, thienyl, benzthienyl, pyrrolyl, indolyl, pyrazolyl, indazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, imidazolyl, benzimidazolyl, oxadiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, triazolyl and tetrazolyl groups.

30 The expression "heteroaryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl" as used herein includes furylmethyl, furylethyl, thienylmethyl, thienylethyl, oxazolylmethyl, oxazolylethyl, thiazolylmethyl, thiazolylethyl, imidazolylmethyl, imidazolylethyl, oxadiazolylmethyl, oxadiazolylethyl, thiadiazolylmethyl,

thiadiazolyethyl, triazolylmethyl, triazolylethyl, tetrazolylmethyl, tetrazolyethyl, pyridylmethyl, pyridylethyl, pyrimidinylmethyl, pyrazinylmethyl, quinolylmethyl and isoquinolylmethyl.

5 The term "halogen" as used herein includes fluorine, chlorine, bromine and iodine, especially fluorine.

For use in medicine, the salts of the compounds of formula I will be pharmaceutically acceptable salts. Other salts may, however, be useful in the preparation of the compounds according to the invention or of their pharmaceutically acceptable salts. Suitable pharmaceutically acceptable
10 salts of the compounds of this invention include acid addition salts which may, for example, be formed by mixing a solution of the compound according to the invention with a solution of a pharmaceutically acceptable acid such as hydrochloric acid, sulphuric acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid, succinic acid, acetic acid, benzoic acid, oxalic acid, citric acid,
15 tartaric acid, carbonic acid or phosphoric acid. Furthermore, where the compounds of the invention carry an acidic moiety, suitable pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof may include alkali metal salts, e.g. sodium or potassium salts; alkaline earth metal salts, e.g. calcium or magnesium salts; and salts formed with suitable organic ligands, e.g.
20 quaternary ammonium salts.

The present invention includes within its scope prodrugs of the compounds of formula I above. In general, such prodrugs will be functional derivatives of the compounds of formula I which are readily convertible *in vivo* into the required compound of formula I. Conventional
25 procedures for the selection and preparation of suitable prodrug derivatives are described, for example, in *Design of Prodrugs*, ed. H. Bundgaard, Elsevier, 1985.

The compounds according to the invention have at least one asymmetric centre, and they may accordingly exist as enantiomers.
30 Where the compounds according to the invention possess two or more asymmetric centres, they may additionally exist as diastereoisomers. It is

to be understood that all such isomers and mixtures thereof in any proportion are encompassed within the scope of the present invention.

In particular, the carbon atom at the 3-position of the indoline or azaindoline nucleus in formula I above is an asymmetric carbon atom, thereby giving rise to the possibility of (*R*) and (*S*) enantiomers. It is to be understood that the present invention relates to the individual (*R*) and (*S*) enantiomers of the compounds of formula I as well as to all possible mixtures thereof, including racemic mixtures thereof.

The optionally substituted five-membered heteroaromatic ring Z in formula I is suitably a 1,3-oxazole, 1,3-thiazole, imidazole, 1,2,4-oxadiazole, 1,3,4-oxadiazole, 1,2,4-thiadiazole, 1,3,4-thiadiazole, 1,2,3-triazole, 1,2,4-triazole or tetrazole ring. Preferably, the ring is a 1,3-oxazole, 1,3-thiazole, 1,2,4-oxadiazole, 1,2,4-thiadiazole or 1,2,4-triazole ring, in particular a 1,2,4-triazol-1-yl or 1,2,4-triazol-4-yl moiety.

Suitably, the five-membered heteroaromatic ring Z is unsubstituted. Examples of optional substituents which may typically be attached to the moiety Z include methyl, ethyl, benzyl and amino.

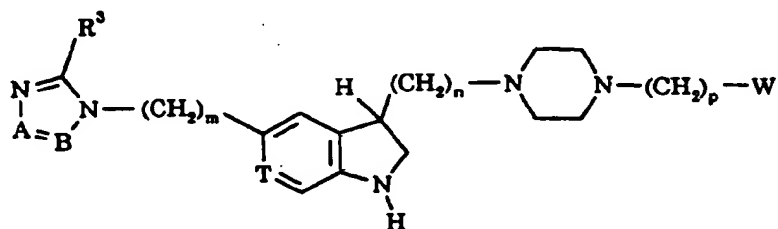
Where E and Q, which may be the same or different, represent straight or branched alkylene chains, these may be, for example, methylene, ethylene, 1-methylethylene, propylene, 2-methylpropylene or butylene. In addition, E may represent a chemical bond such that the moiety Z is attached directly to the indoline or azaindoline ring system.

Suitable values for the substituent R¹ include benzyl, phenylethyl, imidazolylmethyl and pyridylmethyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected typically from halogen, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, amino, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonylamino, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonylamino and C₁₋₆ alkylaminosulphonylmethyl. Particular values of R¹ include benzyl, fluorobenzyl, difluorobenzyl, methoxybenzyl, aminobenzyl, acetyl-amino-benzyl, phenylethyl, fluoro-phenylethyl, difluoro-phenylethyl, acetyl-amino-phenylethyl and pyridylmethyl.

Suitably, R^2 represents hydrogen or methyl, especially hydrogen.

A particular sub-class of compounds according to the invention is represented by the compounds of formula II, and salts and prodrugs thereof:

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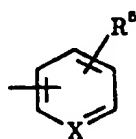


(II)

wherein

- 10 m is zero, 1, 2 or 3;
 n is 2, 3, 4 or 5, preferably 3 or 4;
 p is 1, 2 or 3;
 T represents nitrogen or CH;
 A represents nitrogen or CH;
 B represents nitrogen or $C-R^4$;
15 R^3 and R^4 independently represent hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, aryl, aryl(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{3-7} heterocycloalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryl(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkylthio, amino, C_{1-6} alkylamino, di(C_{1-6})alkylamino, halogen, cyano or trifluoromethyl; and
 W represents a group of formula (a), (b) or (c):

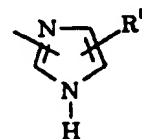
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(a)



(b)



(c)

in which

X represents CH or nitrogen;

Y represents oxygen, sulphur or NH; and

5 R^s represents hydrogen, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonyl, amino, C₁₋₆ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonylamino, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonylamino or C₁₋₆ alkylaminosulphonylmethyl.

Particular values of R³ and R⁴ include hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, benzyl and amino, especially hydrogen.

10 Particular values of R⁵ include hydrogen, fluoro, methoxy, amino and acetylamino.

In one embodiment of the compounds of formula II as defined above, T represents CH.

Specific compounds within the scope of the present invention
15 include:

4-benzyl-1-[3-(2,3-dihydro-5-(1,2,4-triazol-4-yl)-1H-indol-3-yl)propyl]piperazine;
1-[3-(2,3-dihydro-5-(1,2,4-triazol-4-yl)-1H-indol-3-yl)propyl]-4-(pyridin-3-ylmethyl)piperazine;
20 and salts and prodrugs thereof.

Additional specific compounds within the scope of the present invention also include:

4-benzyl-1-[3-(2,3-dihydro-5-(1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridin-3-yl)propyl]piperazine;
25 and salts and prodrugs thereof.

The invention also provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising one or more compounds of this invention in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Preferably these compositions are in unit dosage forms such as tablets, pills, capsules, powders, granules,
30 sterile parenteral solutions or suspensions, metered aerosol or liquid sprays, drops, ampoules, auto-injector devices or suppositories; for oral,

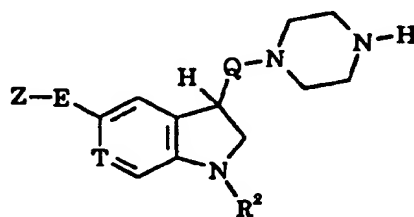
parenteral, intranasal, sublingual or rectal administration, or for administration by inhalation or insufflation. For preparing solid compositions such as tablets, the principal active ingredient is mixed with a pharmaceutical carrier, e.g. conventional tableting ingredients such as corn starch, lactose, sucrose, sorbitol, talc, stearic acid, magnesium stearate, dicalcium phosphate or gums, and other pharmaceutical diluents, e.g. water, to form a solid preformulation composition containing a homogeneous mixture of a compound of the present invention, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof. When referring to these preformulation compositions as homogeneous, it is meant that the active ingredient is dispersed evenly throughout the composition so that the composition may be readily subdivided into equally effective unit dosage forms such as tablets, pills and capsules. This solid preformulation composition is then subdivided into unit dosage forms of the type described above containing from 0.1 to about 500 mg of the active ingredient of the present invention. Typical unit dosage forms contain from 1 to 100 mg, for example 1, 2, 5, 10, 25, 50 or 100 mg, of the active ingredient. The tablets or pills of the novel composition can be coated or otherwise compounded to provide a dosage form affording the advantage of prolonged action. For example, the tablet or pill can comprise an inner dosage and an outer dosage component, the latter being in the form of an envelope over the former. The two components can be separated by an enteric layer which serves to resist disintegration in the stomach and permits the inner component to pass intact into the duodenum or to be delayed in release. A variety of materials can be used for such enteric layers or coatings, such materials including a number of polymeric acids and mixtures of polymeric acids with such materials as shellac, cetyl alcohol and cellulose acetate.

The liquid forms in which the novel compositions of the present invention may be incorporated for administration orally or by injection include aqueous solutions, suitably flavoured syrups, aqueous or oil

suspensions, and flavoured emulsions with edible oils such as cottonseed oil, sesame oil, coconut oil or peanut oil, as well as elixirs and similar pharmaceutical vehicles. Suitable dispersing or suspending agents for aqueous suspensions include synthetic and natural gums such as
5 tragacanth, acacia, alginate, dextran, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, methylcellulose, polyvinyl-pyrrolidone or gelatin.

In the treatment of migraine, a suitable dosage level is about 0.01 to 250 mg/kg per day, preferably about 0.05 to 100 mg/kg per day, and especially about 0.05 to 5 mg/kg per day. The compounds may be
10 administered on a regimen of 1 to 4 times per day.

The compounds according to the invention may be prepared by a process which comprises N-alkylation of a compound of formula III:



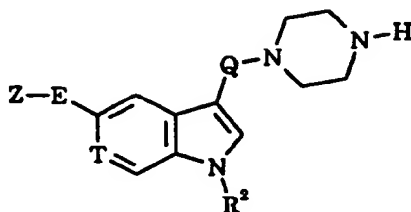
(III)

15

wherein Z, E, Q, T and R² are as defined above.

Attachment of the R¹ moiety to the compounds of formula III may conveniently be effected by standard alkylation techniques, for example by treatment with an aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl or heteroaryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl halide such as
20 benzyl iodide, benzyl bromide or 3-(chloromethyl)pyridine, typically under basic conditions, e.g. sodium hydride or potassium carbonate in N,N-dimethylformamide, or triethylamine in acetonitrile. Alternatively, the R¹ moiety may conveniently be attached by a reductive alkylation procedure, which comprises treating the required compound of formula III
25 as defined above with the appropriate aldehyde, e.g. benzaldehyde, in the presence of a reducing agent such as sodium cyanoborohydride.

The compounds of formula III above may be prepared by reducing a compound of formula IV:



(IV)

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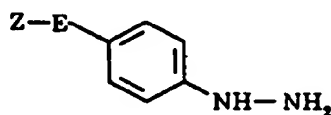
wherein Z, E, Q, T and R² are as defined above.

Reduction of compound IV is conveniently effected by catalytic hydrogenation using hydrogen in the presence of a suitable catalyst, e.g. palladium on carbon, typically at an elevated pressure, e.g. a pressure in the region of 60 psi, and advantageously under acidic conditions, e.g. as a solution in 4M hydrochloric acid.

10

The compounds of formula IV above wherein T represents CH may be prepared by a process which comprises reacting a compound of formula V:

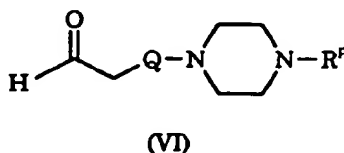
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(V)

wherein Z and E are as defined above; with a compound of formula VI, or a carbonyl-protected form thereof:

20



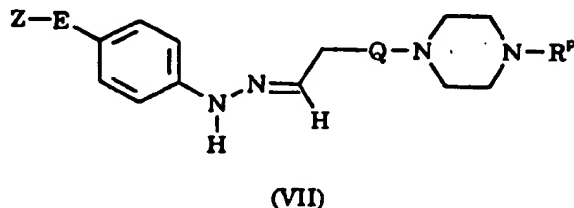
wherein Q is as defined above, and R^p represents an amino-protecting group; followed, where required, by N-alkylation by standard methods to introduce the moiety R²; with subsequent removal of the amino-protecting group R^p.

The reaction between compounds V and VI, which is an example of the well-known Fischer indole synthesis, is suitably carried out by heating the reagents together under mildly acidic conditions, e.g. 4% sulphuric acid at reflux.

Suitable carbonyl-protected forms of the compounds of formula VI include the dimethyl acetal derivatives.

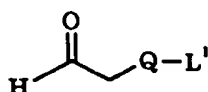
The protecting group R^p in the compounds of formula VI is suitably a carbamoyl moiety such as t-butoxycarbonyl (BOC), which can conveniently be removed as necessary by treatment under mildly acidic conditions. Indeed, the acidic conditions of the Fischer indole synthesis reaction will generally suffice to remove the BOC group.

The Fischer reaction between compounds V and VI may be carried out in a single step, or may proceed via an initial non-cyclising step at a lower temperature to give an intermediate of formula VII:

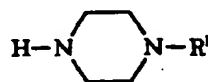


wherein Z, E, Q and R^p are as defined above; followed by cyclisation using a suitable reagent, e.g. a polyphosphate ester.

The intermediates of formula VI, or carbonyl-protected forms thereof, may be prepared by reacting a compound of formula VIII, or a carbonyl-protected form thereof, with a compound of formula IX:



(VIII)



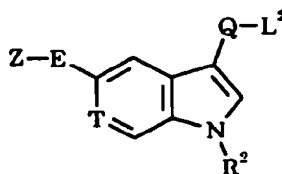
(IX)

wherein Q and R^p are as defined above, and L¹ represents a suitable leaving group.

The leaving group L¹ is suitably a halogen atom, e.g. chlorine or bromine.

Where L¹ represents a halogen atom, the reaction between compounds VIII and IX is conveniently effected by stirring the reactants under basic conditions in a suitable solvent, for example sodium carbonate in dimethoxyethane, potassium carbonate in *N,N*-dimethylformamide, or triethylamine in tetrahydrofuran or acetonitrile, optionally in the presence of catalytic sodium iodide.

In an alternative procedure, the compounds of formula IV above may be prepared by reacting a compound of formula IX as defined above with a compound of formula X:



(X)

wherein Z, E, Q, T and R² are as defined above, and L² represents a suitable leaving group; followed by removal of the amino-protecting group R^p.

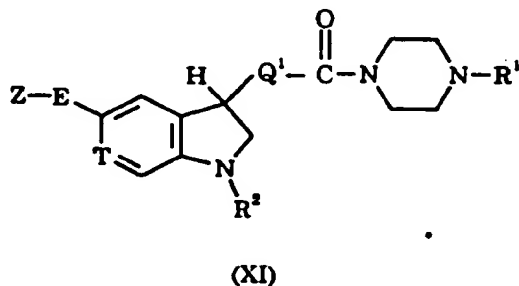
The leaving group L^2 is suitably an alkylsulphonyloxy or arylsulphonyloxy group, e.g. methanesulphonyloxy (mesyloxy) or *p*-toluenesulphonyloxy (tosyloxy).

Where L^2 represents an alkylsulphonyloxy or arylsulphonyloxy group, the reaction between compounds IX and X is conveniently carried out in a suitable solvent such as 1,2-dimethoxyethane, typically in the presence of a base such as sodium carbonate.

In a representative embodiment, the compounds of formula X wherein T represents CH, R^2 is hydrogen, Q represents a propylene chain and L^2 represents a mesyloxy or tosyloxy group may be prepared by reacting 3,4-dihydro-2*H*-pyran with a compound of formula V as defined above or a salt thereof, under a variant of the Fischer reaction conditions as described above for the reaction between compounds V and VI; followed by mesylation or tosylation of the 3-hydroxypropyl-indole derivative thereby obtained, typically by treatment with mesyl chloride or tosyl chloride under standard conditions.

The Fischer reaction with 3,4-dihydro-2*H*-pyran is suitably brought about by heating an acid addition salt of the hydrazine derivative V, typically the hydrochloride salt, in an inert solvent such as dioxan, at the reflux temperature of the solvent.

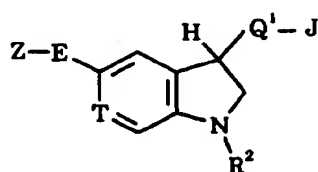
The compounds according to the invention may also be prepared by a process which comprises reducing a compound of formula XI:



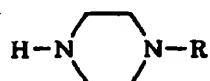
wherein Z, E, T, R¹ and R² are as defined above, and -Q¹-CH₂- corresponds to the moiety Q as defined above.

The reaction is suitably carried out by treating the compound of formula XI with a reducing agent such as lithium aluminium hydride in an appropriate solvent, e.g. diethyl ether or tetrahydrofuran, or mixtures thereof.

The compounds of formula XI above may suitably be prepared by reacting a compound of formula XII with a compound of formula XIII:



(XII)



(XIII)

wherein Z, E, T, R¹, R² and Q¹ are as defined above, and J represents a reactive carboxylate moiety.

Suitable values for the reactive carboxylate moiety J include esters, for example C₁₋₄ alkyl esters; acid anhydrides, for example mixed anhydrides with C₁₋₄ alkanolic acids; acid halides, for example acid chlorides; and acylimidazoles.

By way of example, the intermediates of formula XII above wherein J is an acid chloride moiety may be prepared by treating the corresponding carboxylic acid derivative with thionyl chloride in toluene. Similarly, the intermediates of formula XII wherein J is an acylimidazole moiety may be prepared by treating the corresponding carboxylic acid derivative with 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole. Alternatively, the reactive carboxylate moiety J may be obtained by treating the corresponding compound wherein J is carboxy with 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride and 1-hydroxybenzotriazole hydrate, optionally in the presence of triethylamine; the resulting activated

carboxylate intermediate may then suitably be reacted *in situ* with the required compound of formula XIII.

The hydrazine derivatives of formula V above may be prepared by methods analogous to those described in EP-A-0438230 and
5 EP-A-0497512.

Where they are not commercially available, the starting materials of formula VIII, IX, XII and XIII may be prepared by methods analogous to those described in the accompanying Examples, or by standard procedures well known from the art.

10 It will be understood that any compound of formula I initially obtained from any of the above processes may, where appropriate, subsequently be elaborated into a further compound of formula I by techniques known from the art. For example, a compound of formula I wherein R² is hydrogen initially obtained may be converted into a
15 compound of formula I wherein R² represents C₁₋₆ alkyl by standard alkylation techniques, for example by treatment with an alkyl iodide, e.g. methyl iodide, typically under basic conditions, e.g. sodium hydride in dimethylformamide, or triethylamine in acetonitrile.

Where the above-described processes for the preparation of the
20 compounds according to the invention give rise to mixtures of stereoisomers, these isomers may be separated by conventional techniques such as preparative chromatography. The novel compounds may be prepared in racemic form, or individual enantiomers may be prepared either by enantiospecific synthesis or by resolution. The novel compounds
25 may, for example, be resolved into their component enantiomers by standard techniques such as preparative HPLC, or the formation of diastereomeric pairs by salt formation with an optically active acid, such as (-)-di-*p*-toluoyl-d-tartaric acid and/or (+)-di-*p*-toluoyl-l-tartaric acid, followed by fractional crystallization and regeneration of the free base.
30 The novel compounds may also be resolved by formation of diastereomeric

esters or amides, followed by chromatographic separation and removal of the chiral auxiliary.

During any of the above synthetic sequences it may be necessary and/or desirable to protect sensitive or reactive groups on any of the molecules concerned. This may be achieved by means of conventional protecting groups, such as those described in *Protective Groups in Organic Chemistry*, ed. J.F.W. McOmie, Plenum Press, 1973; and T.W. Greene & P.G.M. Wuts, *Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis*, John Wiley & Sons, 1991. The protecting groups may be removed at a convenient subsequent stage using methods known from the art.

The following Examples illustrate the preparation of compounds according to the invention.

The compounds in accordance with the present invention potently and selectively bind to the 5-HT_{1Dα} receptor subtype, inhibit forskolin-stimulated adenylyl cyclase activity, and stimulate [³⁵S]-GTPγS binding to membranes from clonal cell lines expressing human cloned receptors.

5-HT_{1Dα}/5-HT_{1Dβ} Radioligand Binding

Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) clonal cell lines expressing the human 5-HT_{1Dα} and 5-HT_{1Dβ} receptors were harvested in PBS and homogenised in ice cold 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.7 at room temperature) with a Kinematica polytron and centrifuged at 48,000g at 4°C for 11 min. The pellet was then resuspended in 50 mM Tris-HCl followed by a 10 min incubation at 37°C. Finally the tissue was recentrifuged at 48,000g, 4°C for 11 min and the pellet resuspended, in assay buffer (composition in mM: Tris-HCl 50, pargyline 0.01, CaCl₂ 4; ascorbate 0.1%; pH 7.7 at room temperature) to give the required volume immediately prior to use (0.2 mg protein/ml). Incubations were carried out for 30 min at 37°C in the presence of 0.02-150 nM [³H]-5-HT for saturation studies or 2-5 nM [³H]-5-HT for displacement studies. The final assay volume was 1 ml.

5-HT (10 μ M) was used to define non-specific binding. The reaction was initiated by the addition of membrane and was terminated by rapid filtration through Whatman GF/B filters (presoaked in 0.3% PEI/ 0.5% Triton X) followed by 2 x 4 ml washings with 50 mM Tris-HCl. The radioactive filters were then counted on a LKB beta or a Wallac beta plate counter. Binding parameters were determined by non-linear, least squares regression analysis using an iterative curve fitting routine, from which IC₅₀ (the molar concentration of compound necessary to inhibit binding by 50%) values could be calculated for each test compound. The IC₅₀ values for binding to the 5-HT_{1D α} receptor subtype obtained for the compounds of the accompanying Examples were 50 nM or less in each case. Furthermore, the compounds of the accompanying Examples were all found to possess a selective affinity for the 5-HT_{1D α} receptor subtype of at least 10-fold relative to the 5-HT_{1D β} subtype.

5-HT_{1D α} /5-HT_{1D β} Adenylyl Cyclase Assay

Studies were performed essentially as described in *J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther.*, 1986, 238, 248. CHO clonal cell lines expressing the human cloned 5-HT_{1D α} and 5-HT_{1D β} receptors were harvested in PBS and homogenised, using a motor driven teflon/glass homogeniser, in ice cold Tris HCl-EGTA buffer (composition in mM: Tris HCl 10, EGTA 1, pH 8.0 at room temperature) and incubated on ice for 30-60 min. The tissue was then centrifuged at 20,000g for 20 min at 4°C, the supernatant discarded and the pellet resuspended in Tris HCl-EDTA buffer (composition in mM: Tris HCl 50, EDTA 5, pH 7.6 at room temperature) just prior to assay. The adenylyl cyclase activity was determined by measuring the conversion of α -[³²P]-ATP to [³²P]-cyclic AMP. A 10 μ l aliquot of the membrane suspension was incubated, for 10-15 min, in a final volume of 50 μ l, at 30°C, with or without forskolin (10 μ M), in the presence or absence of test

compound. The incubation buffer consisted of 50 mM Tris HCl (pH 7.6 at room temperature), 100 mM NaCl, 30 μ M GTP, 50 μ M cyclic AMP, 1 mM dithiothreitol, 1 mM ATP, 5 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM EGTA, 1 mM 3-isobutyl-1-methylxanthine, 3.5 mM creatinine phosphate, 0.2 mg/ml creatine phosphokinase, 0.5-1 μ Ci α -[³²P]-ATP and 1 nCi [³H]-cyclic AMP. The incubation was initiated by the addition of membrane, following a 5 min preincubation at 30°C, and was terminated by the addition of 100 μ l SDS (composition in mM: sodium lauryl sulphate 2%, ATP 45, cyclic AMP 1.3, pH 7.5 at room temperature). The ATP and cyclic AMP were separated on a double column chromatography system (*Anal. Biochem.*, 1974, 58, 541). Functional parameters were determined using a least squares curve fitting programme ALLFIT (*Am. J. Physiol.*, 1978, 235, E97) from which E_{max} (maximal effect) and EC₅₀ (the molar concentration of compound necessary to inhibit the maximal effect by 50%) values were obtained for each test compound. Of those compounds which were tested in this assay, the EC₅₀ values for the 5-HT_{1D α} receptor obtained for the compounds of the accompanying Examples were 500 nM or less in each case. Moreover, the compounds of the accompanying Examples which were tested were all found to possess at least a 10-fold selectivity for the 5-HT_{1D α} receptor subtype relative to the 5-HT_{1D β} subtype.

5-HT_{1D α} /5-HT_{1D β} GTP γ S Binding

Studies were performed essentially as described in *Br. J. Pharmacol.*, 1993, 109, 1120. CHO clonal cell lines expressing the human cloned 5-HT_{1D α} and 5-HT_{1D β} receptors were harvested in PBS and homogenised using a Kinematica polytron in ice cold 20 mM HEPES containing 10 mM EDTA, pH 7.4 at room temperature. The membranes were then centrifuged at 40,000g, 4°C for 15 min. The pellet was then resuspended in ice cold 20 mM HEPES containing 0.1 mM EDTA, pH 7.4 at room temperature and recentrifuged at 40,000g, 4°C for 15-25 minutes.

The membranes were then resuspended in assay buffer (composition in mM: HEPES 20, NaCl 100, MgCl₂ 10, pargyline 0.01; ascorbate 0.1%; pH 7.4 at room temperature) at a concentration of 40 µg protein/ml for the 5-HT_{1D α} receptor transfected cells and 40-50 µg protein/ml for the 5-HT_{1D β} receptor transfected cells. The membrane suspension was then incubated, in a volume of 1 ml, with GDP (100 µM for 5-HT_{1D α} receptor transfected cells, 30 µM for the 5-HT_{1D β} receptor transfected cells) and test compound at 30°C for 20 min and then transferred to ice for a further 15 min. [³⁵S]-GTP γ S was then added at a final concentration of 100 pM and the samples incubated for 30 min at 30°C. The reaction was initiated by the addition of membrane and was terminated by rapid filtration through Whatman GF/B filters and washed with 5 ml water. The radioactive filters were then counted on a LKB beta counter. Functional parameters were determined by a non-linear, least squares regression analysis using an iterative curve fitting routine, from which E_{max} (maximal effect) and EC₅₀ (the molar concentration of compound necessary to inhibit the maximal effect by 50% values) were obtained for each test compound. Of those compounds which were tested in this assay, the EC₅₀ values for the 5-HT_{1D α} receptor obtained for the compounds of the accompanying Examples were 500 nM or less in each case. Moreover, the compounds of the accompanying Examples which were tested were all found to possess at least a 10-fold selectivity for the 5-HT_{1D α} receptor subtype relative to the 5-HT_{1D β} subtype.

25

EXAMPLE 1

4-Benzyl-1-(3-(2,3-dihydro-5-(1,2,4-triazol-4-yl)-1H-indol-3-yl)propyl)piperazine

30

1. Intermediate 1: 5-(4-tert-Butyloxycarbonyl)piperazin-1-ylpentanal dimethyl acetal

a) 5-Bromopentanal dimethyl acetal

To a solution of 5-bromovaleryl chloride (50g, 0.251mol) in anhydrous THF (500ml), at -78°C, was added lithium tri-*tert*-butoxyaluminumhydride (1.0M solution in tetrahydrofuran, 300ml; 5 0.30mol), keeping the temperature below -70°C. The solution was stirred at -78°C for 5h and then quenched by dropwise addition of 2M hydrochloric acid (350ml). The mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 16h. Diethyl ether (500ml) was added, the aqueous phase separated and extracted further with ether (x 2). The combined extracts 10 were washed with saturated Na₂CO₃ solution (x 1), water (x 1) and brine (x 2), dried (Na₂SO₄) and evaporated to give 5-bromovaleraldehyde (37.5g, 91%). A solution of 5-bromovaleraldehyde (37.5g, 0.227mol) in methanol (250ml) and concentrated sulphuric acid (0.5ml) was stirred at room temperature for 3h. The solvent was removed under vacuum and to the 15 residue was added K₂CO₃ solution (50ml) and diethyl ether (500ml). The aqueous layer was separated and re-extracted with ether (x 2). The combined extracts were washed with water and brine, dried (Na₂SO₄) and evaporated. The crude product was chromatographed on silica gel eluting with diethyl ether/hexane (1:9) to give the title-acetal (27.5g, 57%). δ 20 (250MHz, CDCl₃) 1.43-1.67 (4H, m, 2 of CH₂); 1.83-1.94 (2H, m, CH₂); 3.38 (6H, s, CH(OMe)₂); 3.42 (2H, t, J = 7Hz, CH₂Br), 4.37 (1H, t, J = 7Hz, CH(OMe)₂).

b) 5-(4-*tert*-Butyloxycarbonyl)piperazin-1-yl pentanal dimethyl acetal

25 A mixture of 5-bromovaleraldehyde dimethyl acetal (27.5g, 0.13mol), Na₂CO₃ (20.7g, 0.195mol), sodium iodide (19.5g, 0.13mol) and *tert*-butyl-1-piperazinecarboxylate (25.5g, 0.137mol), in dimethoxyethane (250ml), was heated at 100°C for 3h. Aluminium foil was wrapped around the vessel to exclude light. The mixture was cooled to room temperature 30 and filtered. The filtrate was evaporated under reduced pressure and then EtOAc (50ml) added and the mixture filtered again to remove

inorganic salts. The solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue chromatographed on silica gel eluting with EtOAc to give the title-product (25.7g, 63%). δ (250MHz, CDCl_3) 1.29-1.71 (6H, m, 3 of CH_2); 1.46 (9H, s, $\text{OC}(\text{Me})_3$); 2.31-2.39 (6H, m, 3 of CH_2); 3.32 (6H, s, $\text{CH}(\text{OMe})_2$); 3.41-3.45 (4H, m, 2 of CH_2); 4.36 (1H, t, $J = 6\text{Hz}$, $\text{CH}(\text{OMe})_2$).

2. Intermediate 2: 4'-(1,2,4-Triazol-4-yl)phenylhydrazine

a) 4'-Aminoacetanilide

A solution of 4-nitroacetanilide (5.0g, 27.8mmol) in EtOH/EtOAc (160ml, 1:1), H_2O (15ml) and 5N HCl (5.6ml, 28.0mmol) was hydrogenated over 10% Pd-C (0.50g) at 50 psi for 0.25h. The catalyst was removed by filtration through celite and the solvents removed under vacuum. The free base was generated by dissolving the product in H_2O , basifying with 2N NaOH and extracting into EtOAc. The combined extracts were dried (MgSO_4) and evaporated to give the title-aniline (3.75g, 90%). δ (250MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{d}_4\text{-MeOH}$) 2.10 (3H, s, Me); 6.68 (2H, d, $J = 8.8\text{Hz}$, Ar-H); 7.27 (2H, d, $J = 8.8\text{Hz}$, Ar-H).

b) 4'-(1,2,4-Triazol-4-yl)acetanilide

A mixture of the preceding aniline (3.52g, 23.4mmol), N,N-dimethylformamide azine (3.33g, 23.4mmol; *J. Chem. Soc. (C)* 1967, 1664) and p-toluenesulphonic acid monohydrate (0.223g, 1.17mmol), in anhydrous toluene (100ml) was heated at reflux for 17h. The beige coloured precipitate was filtered off and washed with toluene and CH_2Cl_2 and dried under vacuum to give the desired triazole (4.29g, 91%); δ (250MHz, $\text{d}_4\text{-MeOH}/\text{d}_6\text{-DMSO}$) 2.14 (3H, s, CH_3); 7.60 (2H, d, $J = 8.8\text{Hz}$, Ar-H); 7.78 (2H, d, $J = 8.8\text{Hz}$, Ar-H); 8.96 (2H, s, Ar-H).

c) 4'-(1,2,4-Triazol-4-yl)phenylaniline

A solution of the preceding acetanilide (4.91g, 24.3mmol) in 5N HCl (100ml) was heated at 125°C for 1.5h. The mixture was cooled to 0°C, basified with concentrated aqueous NaOH solution and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (x 5). The combined extracts were dried (MgSO₄) and evaporated and the residue chromatographed on silica gel, eluting with CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/NH₃ (80:8:1), to give the title-aniline (2.94g, 76%); δ (250MHz, CDCl₃) 3.80 (2H, s, NH₂); 6.71 (2H, d, J = 8.8Hz, Ar-H); 7.08 (2H, d, J = 8.8Hz, Ar-H); 8.36 (2H, s, Ar-H).

d) 4'-(1,2,4-Triazol-4-yl)phenylhydrazine

To a solution of the preceding aniline (1.60g, 9.99mmol) in concentrated HCl/H₂O (23ml and 3ml respectively) was added, at -21°C, a solution of NaNO₂ (0.69g, 9.99mmol) in H₂O (8ml), at such a rate as to maintain the temperature below -10°C. The mixture was stirred for 0.3h and then filtered rapidly through a sinter, under vacuum. The filtrate was added to a cooled (-20°C) solution of SnCl₂.2H₂O (9.02g, 40.0mmol) in concentrated HCl (17ml). The mixture was stirred at -20°C for 0.25h and then at room temperature for 1.25h. The resulting solid was filtered off, washed with Et₂O and dried under vacuum. The crude product was dissolved in H₂O, basified with concentrated aqueous NaOH and extracted with EtOAc (x 5). The combined extracts were dried (MgSO₄) and evaporated to afford the title-product (0.95g, 54%); δ (250MHz, CDCl₃/d₄-MeOH) 3.98 (3H, br s, NH and NH₂); 6.97 (2H, d, J = 12.0Hz, Ar-H); 7.25 (2H, d, J = 12.0Hz, Ar-H); 8.48 (2H, s, Ar-H).

3. 1-(3-(5-(1,2,4-Triazol-4-yl)-1H-indol-3-yl)propyl)-4H-piperazine

A mixture of intermediates 1 (9.03g, 28.6mmol) and 2 (5.0g, 28.6mmol) in 4% sulphuric acid (300ml) was heated at reflux for 22h. The solution was cooled in an ice bath, basified with solid K₂CO₃ and extracted with butan-1-ol (3 x). The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue

azeotroped with hexane (2 x). The residue was chromatographed on silica eluting with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2:\text{MeOH}:\text{NH}_3$ (30:8:1) to give the title indole (3.9g, 44%) as a beige foam. δ (250MHz, $\text{CDCl}_3 + d_4\text{-MeOH}$) 1.87-1.99 (2H, m), 2.42-2.49 (6H, m), 2.75-2.81 (2H, m), 2.88-2.92 (4H, m), 7.14 (1H, dd, $J = 8.6$ and 2.1Hz), 7.18 (1H, s), 7.49 (1H, d, $J = 8.6\text{Hz}$), 7.58 (1H, d, $J = 2.1\text{Hz}$), 8.60 (2H, s).

4. 1-(3-(2,3-Dihydro-5-(1,2,4-triazol-4-yl)-1H-indol-3-yl)propyl)-4H-piperazine

10 A solution of 1-(3-(5-(1,2,4-triazol-4-yl)-1H-indol-3-yl)propyl)-4H-piperazine (314mg, 1.0mmol) in 4M hydrochloric acid (30ml) containing palladium on carbon (0.35g) was hydrogenated at 60 psi for four days. After this time the catalyst was removed by filtration and the filtrate evaporated. The residue was chromatographed on silica, eluting with
15 $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2:\text{MeOH}:\text{NH}_3$ (40:8:1) to afford the indoline (255mg, 81%) as a colourless oil. δ (360MHz, CDCl_3) 1.50-1.86 (4H, m), 2.34-2.43 (6H, m), 2.89-2.92 (4H, m), 3.30-3.41 (2H, m), 3.78-3.84 (1H, m), 3.93 (1H, brs), 6.64 (1H, d, $J = 8.2\text{Hz}$), 7.00 (1H, dd, $J = 8.2$ and 2.2Hz), 7.02 (1H, s), 8.33 (2H, s).

20

5. 4-Benzyl-1-(3-(2,3-dihydro-5-(1,2,4-triazol-4-yl)-1H-indol-3-yl)propyl)piperazine

To a solution of 1-(3-(2,3-dihydro-5-(1,2,4-triazol-4-yl)-1H-indol-3-yl)propyl)-4H-piperazine (115mg, 0.37mmol) in anhydrous DMF (5ml)
25 containing K_2CO_3 (101mg, 0.74mmol) was added benzyl bromide (44 μl , 0.37mmol). The mixture was heated at 50°C, under nitrogen for two hours. After this time the solution was cooled to room temperature and the mixture diluted with EtOAc (30ml) and washed with water (2 x 20ml). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous phase extracted with
30 EtOAc (2 x 10ml). The combined organic layers were dried (Na_2SO_4) and evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was chromatographed on silica, eluting

with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2:\text{MeOH}$ (90:10), to give the title indoline (80mg, 54%) as a colourless foam. Found: C, 67.42; H, 7.37; N, 19.38. $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_6 \cdot 1.4(\text{H}_2\text{O})$ requires: C, 67.39; H, 7.73; N, 19.65. δ (360MHz, d_6 -DMSO) 1.40-1.56 (3H, m), 1.73-1.82 (1H, m), 2.22-2.44 (8H, m), 3.11-3.24 (2H, m), 3.28-3.38 (2H, m), 3.42 (2H, s), 3.58-3.63 (1H, m), 5.75 (1H, br s), 6.52 (1H, d, $J = 8.3\text{Hz}$), 7.12 (1H, dd, $J = 8.3$ and 2.2Hz), 7.20-7.32 (6H, m), 8.84 (2H, s).

EXAMPLE 2

10 1-(3-(2,3-Dihydro-5-(1,2,4-triazol-4-yl)-1H-indol-3-yl)propyl)-4-(pyridin-3-ylmethyl)piperazine oxalate

To a suspension of 3-(chloromethyl)pyridine hydrochloride (32mg, 0.19mmol) in anhydrous DMF (2ml) was added sodium hydride (8mg of a 60% dispersion in mineral oil, 0.19mmol). The mixture was stirred at 0°C ,
15 under nitrogen, for 30 min. After this time the mixture was added to a stirred solution of 1-(3-(2,3-dihydro-5-(1,2,4-triazol-4-yl)-1H-indol-3-yl)propyl)-4H-piperazine (55mg, 0.18mmol) and K_2CO_3 (48mg, 0.35mmol) in DMF (4ml) at 0°C . The mixture was diluted with DMF (2ml) then sodium iodide (0.09mmol, 14mg) was added and the mixture heated at
20 60°C for 4h. After this time the solvents were removed *in vacuo* and the residue chromatographed on silica, eluting with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2:\text{MeOH}:\text{NH}_3$ (90:10:1) to give the indoline free base (47mg, 66%) as a colourless oil. The free base was dissolved in ether/MeOH (10/1, 2ml) and treated dropwise with a solution of oxalic acid (11mg, 0.12mmol) in ether. The
25 title indoline (28mg) which was collected by filtration was isolated as a colourless solid. m.p. $140-142^\circ\text{C}$. Found: C, 53.24; H, 5.83; N, 16.23. $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}_7 \cdot 2.1(\text{C}_2\text{H}_2\text{O}_4) \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ requires C, 53.50; H, 5.81; N, 16.06. δ (360MHz, d_6 -DMSO) 1.43-1.82 (4H, m), 2.42-3.33 (12H, m), 3.61-3.65 (3H, m), 6.56 (1H, d, $J = 8.3\text{Hz}$), 7.16 (1H, dd, $J = 8.3$ and 2.2Hz), 7.27 (1H, d, $J = 2.2\text{Hz}$), 7.39 (1H, dd, $J = 8.0$ and 4.9Hz), 7.72 (1H, d, $J = 7.9\text{Hz}$), 8.50
30 (1H, d, $J = 4.9\text{Hz}$), 8.53 (1H, s), 8.86 (2H, s).

EXAMPLE 3

5 4-Benzyl-1-[3-(5-(1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridin-
3-yl)]propylpiperazine oxalate

1. Intermediate 1: 5-(1,2,4-Triazol-1-yl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine

a) 4-Methyl-5-nitro-2-(1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)pyridine

To a solution of 1,2,4-triazole (4.0g, 58mmol) in dry DMF (20mL)
10 was added potassium carbonate (12.0g, 87mmol) and 2-chloro-4-methyl-5-nitropyridine (10g, 58mmol) and the mixture stirred at ambient temperature under nitrogen for 24 hours. Ethyl acetate (500mL) and water (250mL) were added to the mixture and the resulting precipitate was collected by filtration to give the title compound (5.08g, 43%) as a pale
15 brown solid. The filtrate was separated and the organic phase was washed with water (250mL) and brine (250mL), dried (MgSO₄) and evaporated. The residue was triturated with ethyl acetate and the precipitate collected by filtration to give the title compound as a brown solid (4.11g, 35%, overall yield 78%). mp 198-200°C. ¹H NMR (360MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.72 (3H, s), 7.86 (1H, s), 8.07 (1H, s) 9.03 (1H, s) and 9.15 (1H, s).
20 s).

b) N,N-Dimethyl-2-(5-nitro-2-(1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)-pyridin-4-yl)ethenamine

25 To a suspension of 4-methyl-5-nitro-2-(1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)pyridine (4.1g, 20mmol) in dry DMF (30mL) was added dimethylformamide dimethyl acetal (5.9mL, 44mmol) and the mixture heated at 90°C for 20 min. The solvent was evaporated *in vacuo* using toluene as an azeotrope to give the title compound (5.2g, 100%) as a dark red solid. mp 225-228°C.
30 ¹H NMR (360MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.10 (6H, s) 6.13 (1H, d, J=13.1Hz), 7.54 (1H, d, J=13.1Hz), 7.81 (1H, s) 8.04 (1H, s), 8.92 (1H, s) and 9.17 (1H, s).

c) 5-(1,2,4-Triazol-1-yl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine

N,N-Dimethyl-2-(5-nitro-2-(1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)pyridin-4-yl)ethenamine (8g, 31mmol) was hydrogenated over platinum oxide (1.6g) in ethanol (150mL) at 30 psi of hydrogen for 1 hour. The catalyst was removed by filtration and the solvent evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was chromatographed on silica eluting with ethyl acetate to afford an orange/brown solid. This was triturated with ether and the precipitate collected by filtration to give the title compound (2.89g, 51%) as a pink solid. mp 203-205°C. ¹H NMR (360MHz, d₆-DMSO) δ 6.67 (1H, d, J=3.0Hz), 7.76 (1H, d, J=2.9Hz), 8.01 (1H, s), 8.23 (1H, s), 8.70 (1H, s), 9.25 (1H, s) and 11.86 (1H, br s).

2. 3-Formyl-5-(1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine

A mixture of Intermediate 1 (3.86g, 20.9mmol) and hexamethylenetetramine (4.39g, 31.3mmol) was refluxed in 33% aqueous acetic acid (35mL) for 90 min. Water (40mL) was added and the mixture cooled in ice for 90 min. The precipitate was collected by filtration to give the title compound (3.31g, 74%) as a beige solid. mp 220°C (dec.). ¹H NMR (250MHz, d₆-DMSO) δ 8.29 (1H, s), 8.46 (1H, s), 8.65 (1H, s), 8.81 (1H, s), 9.33 (1H, s), 10.04 (1H, s) and 12.78 (1H, br s).

3. 1-tert-Butyloxycarbonyl-3-formyl-5-(1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine

To a solution of 3-formyl-5-(1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine (3.4g, 16mmol) in acetonitrile (75mL) was added di-tert-butyl dicarbonate (4.18g, 19mmol) and dimethylaminopyridine (98mg, 0.8mmol) and the mixture was stirred at ambient temperature under nitrogen for 16 hours. The solvent was evaporated *in vacuo* and the residue triturated with ether. The precipitate was collected by filtration and chromatographed on silica eluting with 20% EtOAc in DCM to give the

title compound (3.98g, 70%) as a colourless solid. mp 190°C (dec.). ¹H NMR (360MHz, d₆-DMSO) δ 1.70 (9H, s), 8.33 (1H, s), 8.51 (1H, s), 9.00 (1H, s), 9.20 (1H, s), 9.41 (1H, s) and 10.15 (1H, s).

5 4. Ethyl 3-[1-*tert*-butyloxycarbonyl-5-(1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridin-3-yl]prop-2-enoate

A solution of 1-*tert*-butyloxycarbonyl-3-formyl-5-(1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridine (1.5g, 4.8mmol) and (carboethoxymethylene)triphenylphosphorane (2.0g, 5.8mmol) in toluene
10 (30mL) was heated at 80°C under nitrogen for 90 min. The mixture was allowed to cool and the solvent was evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was chromatographed on silica eluting with 20% EtOAc in DCM to give a colourless solid. This was triturated with ether and the solid rechromatographed on silica with 20% EtOAc in DCM to give the title
15 compound (1.77g, 96%) as a colourless solid. mp 178-181°C. ¹H NMR (360MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.37 (3H, t, J=7.1Hz), 1.73 (9H, s), 4.31 (2H, q, J=7.1Hz), 6.59 (1H, d, J=16.2Hz), 7.81 (1H, d, J=16.2Hz), 8.03 (1H, s), 8.14 (1H, s), 8.30 (1H, s), 9.21 (1H, s) and 9.26 (1H, br s).

20 5. Ethyl 3-(5-(1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridin-3-yl)propionate

Ethyl 3-[1-*tert*-butyloxycarbonyl-5-(1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridin-3-yl]prop-2-enoate (0.29g) was hydrogenated over palladium on carbon (10%, 0.435g) in ethanol (50mL) at 50 psi of hydrogen for 75 min.
25 The catalyst was removed by filtration and the solvent evaporated *in vacuo* to give the title compound. (0.24g) as a colourless solid. This was used without further purification in the next step.

A solution of the crude ethyl 3-[1-*tert*-butyloxycarbonyl-5-(1,2,4-triazol-4-yl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridin-3-yl]propionate (0.24g, 0.62mmol) and trifluoroacetic acid (4mL) in dry DCM (16mL) was stirred
30 at ambient temperature under nitrogen for 16 hours. The solvent was

evaporated *in vacuo* and the residue azeotroped with toluene. The residue was chromatographed on silica eluting with a gradient of 2 to 5% MeOH in DCM to give the title compound (44mg, 20%) as a yellow gum. ¹H NMR (360MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.27 (3H, t, J=7.1Hz), 1.90-2.01 (1H, m), 2.17-2.27 (1H, m), 2.40-2.45 (2H, m), 3.34-3.46 (2H, m), 3.82 (1H, t, J=8.6Hz), 4.15 (2H, q, J=7.1Hz), 7.66 (1H, s), 7.73 (1H, s), 8.04 (1H, s) and 8.99 (1H, s).

6. 3-(5-(1,2,4-Triazol-1-yl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridin-3-yl)propanoic acid (4-benzylpiperazinyl)amide

To a solution of ethyl 3-(5-(1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridin-3-yl)propionate (0.12g, 0.42mmol) in methanol (5mL) was added NaOH (4M, 0.3mL) and the mixture was heated at 50°C for 4 hours. After cooling the solution was neutralised (5M, HCl) and the solvents evaporated *in vacuo* to give 3-(5-(1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridin-3-yl)propionic acid (0.65g) as a yellow solid. This was used without purification in the next step.

To a suspension of 3-(5-(1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridin-3-yl)propionic acid (0.108g) in dry DMF (3mL) was added 1-benzylpiperazine (0.11mL, 0.63mmol), 1-hydroxybenzotriazole (71mg, 0.52mmol), 1-ethyl-3-[3-(dimethylamino)propyl]carbodiimide hydrochloride (0.1g, 0.52mmol) and triethylamine (73μL, 0.52mmol) and this mixture was stirred at ambient temperature under nitrogen for 64 hours. The solvent was evaporated *in vacuo* and the residue was partitioned between ethyl acetate (25mL) and water (25mL). The two phases were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate (2x20mL). The combined organics were dried (Na₂SO₄) and evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was chromatographed on silica eluting with a gradient of 2 to 5% MeOH in DCM, followed by 95:5:1, DCM:MeOH:NH₃ to give the title compound (0.126g, 72%) as a pale yellow foam. ¹H NMR (360MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.88-1.96 (1H, m), 2.07-2.15 (1H, m),

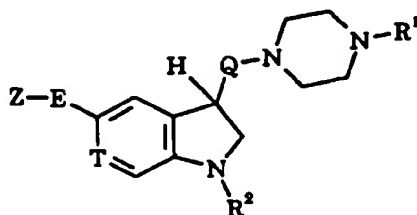
2.30-2.40 (6H, m), 3.28-3.60 (8H, m), 3.72-3.83 (2H, m), 7.19-7.27 (5H, m), 7.57 (1H, s), 7.66 (1H, s), 7.95 (1H, s) and 8.91 (1H, s).

7. 4-Benzyl-1-[3-(5-(1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridin-3-yl)propyl]piperazine oxalate

To a solution of LiAlH_4 in ether (1.0M, 0.86mL, 0.86mmol) and dry THF (5mL) was added dropwise a solution of 3-(5-(1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridin-3-yl)propionic acid (4-benzylpiperazinyl)amide (0.12g, 0.29mmol) in dry THF (5mL) at ambient temperature. The mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 15 min. After cooling water (34 μ L) was added followed by sodium hydroxide (4M, 34 μ L), followed by water (102 μ L). The solid was removed by filtration and the solvent evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was chromatographed on silica eluting with a gradient of 5 to 10% MeOH in DCM followed by 90:10:1, DCM:MeOH: NH_3 to give the free base (16mg, 14%) as a colourless gum. The free base was dissolved in Et_2O :MeOH (10:1, 5mL) and treated dropwise with a solution of oxalic acid (3.6mg, 0.04mmol) in ether (2mL). The precipitate formed was collected by filtration to give the title compound (12mg) as a cream solid. mp 135°C (dec.). Found: C, 54.59; H, 5.85; N, 16.19, $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{29}\text{N}_7 \cdot 2(\text{CO}_2\text{H})_2 \cdot 0.6(\text{H}_2\text{O})$ requires C, 54.56; H, 5.80; N, 16.50%. ^1H NMR (360MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ 1.50-1.86 (4H, m), 2.56-3.30 (10,m), 3.32-3.44 (2H, m), 3.56-3.68 (3H, m), 7.30-7.39 (5H, m), 7.57 (1H, s), 7.66 (1H, s), 8.17 (1H, s) and 9.10 (1H, s).

CLAIMS:

1. A compound of formula I, or a salt or prodrug thereof:



(I)

wherein

Z represents an optionally substituted five-membered heteroaromatic ring selected from furan, thiophene, pyrrole, oxazole, thiazole, isoxazole, isothiazole, imidazole, pyrazole, oxadiazole, thiadiazole, triazole and tetrazole;

E represents a chemical bond or a straight or branched alkylene chain containing from 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

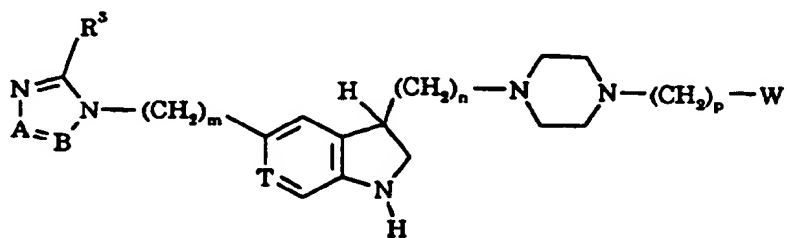
Q represents a straight or branched alkylene chain containing from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

T represents nitrogen or CH;

R¹ represents aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl or heteroaryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, either of which groups may be optionally substituted; and

R² represents hydrogen or C₁₋₆ alkyl.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 represented by formula II, and salts and prodrugs thereof:



(II)

wherein

m is zero, 1, 2 or 3;

5 n is 2, 3, 4 or 5;

p is 1, 2 or 3;

T represents nitrogen or CH;

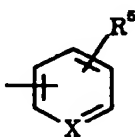
A represents nitrogen or CH;

B represents nitrogen or C-R⁴;

10 R³ and R⁴ independently represent hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, aryl, aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₃₋₇ heterocycloalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, amino, C₁₋₆ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, halogen, cyano or trifluoromethyl; and

W represents a group of formula (a), (b) or (c):

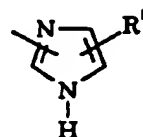
15



(a)



(b)



(c)

in which

X represents CH or nitrogen;

20 Y represents oxygen, sulphur or NH; and

R⁵ represents hydrogen, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonyl, amino, C₁₋₆ alkylamino, di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, C₂₋₆

alkylcarbonylamino, C₁₋₆ alkylsulphonylamino or C₁₋₆ alkylaminosulphonylmethyl.

3. A compound as claimed in claim 2 wherein R⁵ represents
5 hydrogen, fluoro, methoxy, amino or acetylamino.

4. A compound as claimed in any one of the preceding claims
wherein T represents CH.

10 5. A compound selected from:
4-benzyl-1-[3-(2,3-dihydro-5-(1,2,4-triazol-4-yl)-1*H*-indol-3-
yl)propyl]piperazine;
1-[3-(2,3-dihydro-5-(1,2,4-triazol-4-yl)-1*H*-indol-3-yl)propyl]-4-(pyridin-3-
ylmethyl)piperazine;
15 and salts and prodrugs thereof.

6. A compound selected from:
4-benzyl-1-[3-(2,3-dihydro-5-(1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)-1*H*-pyrrolo[2,3-*c*]pyridin-3-
yl)propyl]piperazine;
20 and salts and prodrugs thereof.

7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as
claimed in any one of the preceding claims in association with a
pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
25

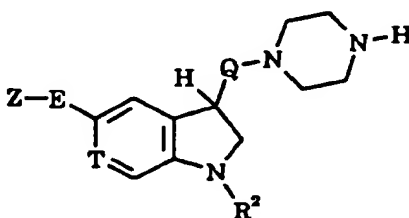
8. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 for use in
therapy.

9. The use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6
30 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment and/or prevention

of clinical conditions for which a subtype-selective agonist of 5-HT_{1D} receptors is indicated.

10. A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in
5 any one of claims 1 to 6, which comprises:

(A) N-alkylation of a compound of formula III:

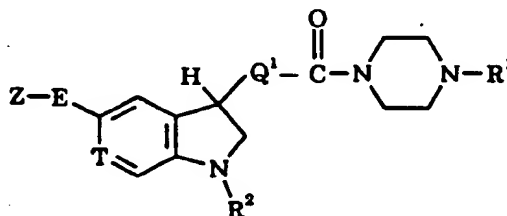


(III)

10

wherein Z, E, Q, T and R² are as defined in claim 1; or

(B) reducing a compound of formula XI:



(XI)

15

wherein Z, E, T, R¹ and R² are as defined in claim 1, and -Q¹-CH₂- corresponds to the moiety Q as defined in claim 1; and

(C) subsequently, where required, converting a compound of formula I initially obtained into a further compound of formula I by conventional methods.

- 5 11. A method for the treatment and/or prevention of clinical conditions for which a subtype-selective agonist of 5-HT_{1D} receptors is indicated, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6.

10

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int onal Application No
PCT/GB 95/01756

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6 C07D401/14 C07D401/10 A61K31/40 C07D471/04

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 C07D A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP,A,0 548 813 (BRISTOL-MEYERS SQUIBB COMPANY) 30 June 1993 cited in the application see claims	1,7
A	WO,A,93 20073 (PFIZER INC.) 14 October 1993 see claims	1,7
A	WO,A,94 02477 (MERCK SHARP & DOHME LTD.) 3 February 1994 see claims	1,7

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubt on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

Z document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

25 October 1995

Date of mailing of the international search report

- 2. 11. 95

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
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Authorized officer

Van Bijlen, H

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/GB95/01756

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Although claim 11 is directed to a method of treatment of (diagnostic method practised on) the human/animal body, the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compound/composition.
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

In International Application No
PCT/GB 95/01756

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP-A-548813	30-06-93	AU-B- 661527	27-07-95
		AU-B- 3003492	24-03-94
		CA-A- 2084531	20-06-93
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		JP-A- 5262762	12-10-93
		NZ-A- 245439	26-07-95
		US-A- 5434154	18-07-95
		ZA-A- 9209445	12-07-93
		CN-A- 1085556	20-04-94
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		CN-A- 1082543	23-02-94
		CZ-A- 9402464	14-06-95
		EP-A- 0635017	25-01-95
		JP-T- 7504919	01-06-95
		NO-A- 943762	06-10-94
WO-A-9402477	03-02-94	AU-B- 4578593	14-02-94
		CA-A- 2138649	03-02-94
		EP-A- 0651749	10-05-95